

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-04 OMB-01 ACDA-05 NIC-01 SAJ-01

DPW-01 /074 W

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R 190450Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1212

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 7900

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA, SW

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH SWEDISH DIPLOMATS

1. SWEDISH AMBASSADOR VIRGIN AND MR. BERQVIST OF THE SWEDISH FOREIGN OFFICE CALLED ON ME YESTERDAY. BERQVIST HAS BEEN ON AN EXTENDED TOUR IN ASIA AND WAS ON HIS WAY TO HANOI.

2. MR. BERQVIST DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH HIS IMPRESSIONS OF CHINA AND NORTH KOREA. HE SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE IN NORTH KOREA BUT HE TREATED IN A HUMOROUS VEIN THE MILITACY AND REVOLUTIONARY ARDOR OF THE REGIME. HE SAID THAT SWEDEN RAN A \$200 MILLION TRADE BALANCE WITH NORTH KOREA AND PLANNED TO OPEN AN EMBASSY THERE. HE NOTED WRYLY THAT IT WOULD BE HARD TO FIND A SWEDISH DIPLOMAT WHO WOULD WILLINGLY SPEND MUCH TIME IN PYONG YANG.

3. HIS TALKS IN PEKING LEFT BERQVIST WITH A HEIGHTENED
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SENSE OF CHINA'S OBSESSION WITH RUSSIAN-AMERICAN COL-

LUSION. APPARENTLY THE CHINESE HAD HELD FORTH AT GREAT LENGTH ON THE THEME THAT THE SOVIETS WERE IMPLACABLY BENT ON FURTHER CONQUEST. THE CHINESE URGED BERQVIST TO IMPRESS ON THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT THE NEED FOR A HIGH STATE OF MILITARY PREPAREDNESS IN ORDER TO COUNTER RUSSIAN ADVENTURISM IN NORTHERN EUROPE. THE CHINESE STATED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS SEEKING TO ENHANCE ITS POSITION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IN ORDER TO BRING PRESURE ON CHINA AND THAT THERE WAS ANTI-CHINESE COLLUSION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA BETWEEN THE SOVIETS AND THE AMERICANS. THE RUSSIANS WERE DETERMINED TO IMPROVE THEIR POSITION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND WERE MAKING A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC EFFORT THERE. BERQVIST SAID THAT HE HAD NOT REALIZED UNTIL THIS TRIP THE EXTENT OF CHINA'S OBSESSION WITH THE RUSSIAN THREAT. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THE PRESENCE OF CHINESE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WHO MIGHT BE ASSUMED TO BE PROVIDING PEKING WITH INFORMATION, THE PRC APPEARED TO HIM TO BE GROSSLY MISINFORMED IN MANY WAYS. CERTAINLY THERE WAS NO CORROBORATION OF THEIR BELIEF THAT RUSSIAN INFLUENCE IN THAILAND, INDONESIA, LAOS, ETC. WAS INCREASING.

4. BERQVIST AND VIRGIN DISCUSSED HUMOROUSLY THE PROBLEMS THE SWEDISH CONFRONT IN ESTABLISHING THEIR LUMBER PROJECT IN NORTH VIETNAM. ACCORDING TO THEIR DESCRIPTION, EVERY ASPECT OF THIS PROJECT PRESENTS SERIOUS PROBLEMS. THEY ARE CONCERNED OVER THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SWEDISH VILLAGE IN NORTH VIETNAM, THE PROVIDING OF LOGISTICAL/ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TO THEIR TECHNICIANS, THE DIFFICULTY OF REACHING AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUNIST BUREAUCRACY OF THE DRV AND THE LACK OF UNDERSTANDING WITHIN NORTH VIETNAM OF THE COMPLEXITIES OF A MAJOR PROJECT OF THIS KIND.

5. IN DISCUSSING THE SITUATION HERE, I STRESSED OUR DESIRE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES IN THE FIELD OF REFUGEE RELIEF AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE SWEDES WOULD USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO ASSURE ACCESS TO RETURN TO VILLAGE SITES

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